

Message Text

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LONDON AND PARIS ALSO FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH ENRG PARM GW BR

SUBJEC: US-GERMAN NUCLEAR CONSULTATIONS--THE VIEW FROM KARLSRUHE AS
REPORTED IN OESTADE DE SAO PAULO

1. SUMMARY. ACCORDING TO O ESTADE DO SAO PAULO, KRAFTWERK UNION (KWU) SOURCES HAVE EXPRESSED ITTITATION AND RESENTMENT THAT THE FRG DID NOT CONSULT WITH KWU ABOUT THE NUCLEAR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE VICE PRESIDENT, AND THAT THE SCHMIDT GOVERNMENT SEEMS TOO WILLING TO MAKE CONCESSION TO THE US. THE SOURCES REPORTEDLY MADE SEVERAL OTHER COMMENTS WHICH, IN OUR JUDGEMENT, WERE HARDLY RESPONSIBLE AND MAY CAUSE SOME DISCOMFORT TO THOUGHTFUL BRAZILIAN POLICYMAKERS. END SUMMARY.

2. O ESTADO'S WILLIAM WAACK, IN A SERIES OF TWO ARTICLES PUB-
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LISHED ON JANUARY 25 AND 26, REPORTED FROM FRANKFURT THAT:
ELEMENTS CONNECTED TO THE DIRECTORY OF KWU MANIFESTED WITH
VEHEMENCE THEIR IRRITATION ABOUT CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S DIS-
CUSSIONS WITH THE VICE PRESIDENT: "THE GERMANS ARE BEHAVING
ALL THE TIME LIKE A RABBIT IN FRONT OF A SNAKE, THE RABBIT
WAITING TO SEE WHAT WILL HAPPEN". ACCORDING TO WAACK, ONE OF
THE MOTIVES FOR THIS "DISCONTENT AND SARCASM" IS THAT THE

GERMAN NUCLEAR INDUSTRY STILL HAS NOT BEEN CONSULTED, MUCH LESS TAKEN PART IN THE "PRELIMINARY" NEGOTIATIONS TO WHICH THE CHANCELLOR REFERRED IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE. " WE ARE HEARING THIS FOR THE FIRST TIME," KWU SOURCES REPORTEDLY SAID. IN THEIR OPINION, ACCORDING TO WAACK, THE FRG HAS SHOWN ITSELF TIMID AND PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE EVEN BEFORE KNOWING IN DEPTH THE POLITICAL REALITY. "THE AMERICANS OUGHT TO BE REALLY AMUSED WITH US: WITH NOT MUCH EFFORT, THE US RAPIDLY OBTAINED A STATE OF SPIRIT IN GOVERNMENT CIRCLES THAT IS DISPOSED TO MAKE CONCESSIONS. FOR US, HOWEVER, EVERYTHING CONTINUES THE SAME. WE CONTINUE WORKING ON THE AGREEMENTS AND THEIR VARIOUS PROJECTS AS IF NOTHING HAD HAPPENED..."

REPROCESSING. WAACK SAID KWU DENIED ANY POSSIBLE CORRELATION BETWEEN THE DELAYS IN THE FRG'S GRANTING OF LICENSE FOR THE EXPORTING OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY (E.G., REPROCESSING) AND THE "SUSPENSE CREATED BY THE VISIT OF MONDALE." "EVERYTHING IS ON SCHEDULE...", ACCORDING TO KWU. KWU TECHNICIANS, HOWEVER, SPECULATED ON THREE POSSIBLE WAYS TO SOLVE THE REPROCESSING PROBLEMS: (A) BRAZIL COULD SIGN THE NTP WITHOUT AFFECTING BRAZILIAN SOVEREIGNTY SINCE "TO SIGN IS ONE THING, AND TO RATIFY IS ANOTHER." (B) THE REPROCESSING PLANT COULD BE "INTERNATIONALIZED" BY SUBMITTING IT TO RIGID INTERNATIONAL CONTROL AND BY LETTING IT SERVE AS A SUPPLY STATION FOR LATIN AMERICA. (C) THE US COULD BE BROUGHT IN AS A FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL PARTICIPANT "IN ORDER TO PLACATE THE US NUCLEAR INDUSTRY, WHICH, AT BOTTOM, IS (THE FORCE) THAT MOUNTED THE WHOLE CAMPAIGN." SOLUTION OF THIS TYPE RECEIVE LITTLE ATTENTION IN KARLSRUHE, WAACK SAID, BECAUSE, ACCORDING TO THE TECHNICIANS, "FROM OUR OWN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EXPERIENCE IN EUROPE WE KNOW THAT 'MULTINATIONALIZED' SOCIETIES NEVER LEAD TO ANYTHING BECAUSE THE DIVERSE PARTIES INVOLVED RARELY COME TO AGREEMENT QUICKLY ON MANY QUESTIONS." (COMMENT. WE PRESUME THIS CRITICISM REFERS AT LEAST TO URENCO, AND WE BELIEVE BRAZILIAN WILL MAKE THE SAME INTERPRETATION.)

KWU TECHNICIANS, ACCORDING TO WAACK, OBSERVED THAT THE US, AFTER HAVING TWO REPROCESSING PLANTS PARALYZED IN CONSTRUCTION OR OPERATION, INTEND THAT OTHER COUNTRIES NOT PUT SIMILAR FACILITIES INTO OPERATION. ONE TECHNICIAN, HOWEVER, EXPRESSED DOUBTS ABOUT BRAZIL'S NEED FOR A PILOT REPROCESSING PLANTS: "BRAZIL'S INTENTIONS CANNOT BE JUSTIFIED ON ECONOMIC GROUNDS."

4. COMMENT. THE REPORTED COMMENTS OF THE KWU TECHNICIANS ON REPROCESSING ALTERNATIVES SEEM TO US HARDLY RESPONSIBLE ALTHOUGH GENERALLY CONSISTENT WITH THE NATURE OF COMMENTARY THAT KWU OFFICIALS HAVE MADE FOR SOME TIME. THIS KIND OF COMMENTARY FROM KWU IS LIKELY TO CAUSE SOME DISCOMFORT TO THOUGHTFUL BRAZILIANS, INCLUDING POLICYMAKERS. BRAZIL'S PUBLIC DEFENSE OF ITS POSITION ON THE NUCLEAR AGREEMENT RESTS HEAVILY ON PRINCIPLES WHICH BRAZIL VIEWS

AS INTERNATIONALLY ACCPETABLE. THIS KIND OF DEFENSE IS ONLY
UNDERCUT BY PUBLIC COMMENTS BY BRAZIL'S INDUSTRIAL PARTNER THAT
SUGGEST A WILLINGNESS TO CUT DANGEROUS CORNERS.
CRIMMINS

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